

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vegetation trimmer head adapted to be rotatably driven by a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus, said vegetation trimmer head defining a rotational axis and comprising:

a housing having at least one trimmer line exit port and means for enabling releasable attachment of said housing to a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus;

a spool rotatably received in said housing for carrying at least one coil of flexible trimmer line;

latch means carried by one of said housing and said spool for releasably locking said spool against rotation with respect to said housing; and

seat means carried by the other of said housing and said spool for receiving said latch means, whereby one of said latch means and said seat means orbits about said rotational axis when trimmer line is dispensed from said spool.

2. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 wherein said latch means is carried by said spool and said seat means is carried by said housing.

3. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 wherein said seat means comprise at least one opening.

4. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 wherein said latch means comprise a manually actuatable button and means for biasing said button into engagement with said seat means.

5. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 4 wherein said biasing means comprise a spring.

6. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 4 wherein said biasing means comprise a resilient tab.

7. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 6 wherein said resilient tab is formed integrally with one of said housing and said spool.

8. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 4 wherein a sidewall of said button includes a sloped portion for facilitating passage of said button with respect to said seat means when trimmer line is dispensed from the trimmer head.

9. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 8 wherein said seat means is provided with a bevel having a slope corresponding to that of said sloped portion of said button for facilitating passage of said button with respect to said seat means when trimmer line is dispensed from the trimmer head.

10. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 further comprising knob means connected to said spool for turning said spool with respect to said housing.

11. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 further comprising a pair of opposed exit ports in said housing and yieldable trimmer line guide means carried by said spool for guiding trimmer line between said exit ports.

12. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 11 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means comprise a spring.

13. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 11 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means pass through a core of said spool.

14. A vegetation trimmer apparatus comprising:

- an elongate handle;

- a motor connected to said handle; and

- a rotatable trimmer head connected to said handle and rotatably driven by said motor, said trimmer head defining a rotational axis and comprising:

- a housing having at least one trimmer line exit port;

- a spool rotatably received in said housing for carrying at least one coil of flexible trimmer line;

- latch means carried by one of said housing and said spool for releasably locking said spool against rotation with respect to said housing; and

- seat means carried by the other of said housing and said spool for receiving said latch means, whereby one of said latch means and said seat means orbits about said rotational axis when trimmer line is dispensed from said spool.

15. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 14 wherein said latch means is carried by said spool and said seat means is carried by said housing.

16. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 14 wherein said seat means comprise at least one opening.

17. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 14 wherein said latch means comprise a manually actuatable button and means for biasing said button into engagement with said seat means.

18. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 17 wherein said biasing means comprise a spring.

19. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 17 wherein said biasing means comprise a resilient tab.

20. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 19 wherein said resilient tab is formed integrally with one of said housing and said spool.

21. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 17 wherein a sidewall of said button includes a sloped portion for facilitating passage of said button with respect to said seat means when trimmer line is dispensed from the trimmer head.

22. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 21 wherein said seat means is provided with a bevel having a slope corresponding to that of said sloped portion of said button for facilitating passage of said button with respect to said seat means when trimmer line is dispensed from the trimmer head.

23. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 14 further comprising knob means connected to said spool for turning said spool with respect to said housing.

24. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a pair of opposed exit trimmer line ports in said housing and yieldable trimmer line guide means carried by said spool for guiding trimmer line between said exit ports.

25. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 24 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means comprise a spring.

26. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 24 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means pass through a core of said spool.

27. A vegetation trimmer head adapted to be rotatably driven by a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus, said vegetation trimmer head comprising:

- a housing having a pair of opposed trimmer line exit ports and means for enabling releasable attachment of said housing to a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus;

- a spool rotatably received in said housing for carrying at least one coil of flexible trimmer line; and

- yieldable trimmer line guide means carried by said spool for guiding trimmer line between said exit ports.

28. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 27 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means comprise a spring.

29. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 27 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means pass through a core of said spool.

30. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 27 further comprising knob means connected to said spool for turning said spool with respect to said housing.

31. A vegetation trimmer apparatus comprising:

- an elongate handle;

- a motor connected to said handle; and

- a rotatable trimmer head connected to said handle and rotatably driven by said motor, said trimmer head comprising:

a housing having a pair of opposed trimmer line exit ports;

a spool rotatably received in said housing for carrying at least one coil of flexible trimmer line; and

yieldable trimmer line guide means carried by said spool for guiding trimmer line between said exit ports.

32. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 31 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means comprise a spring.

33. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 31 wherein said yieldable trimmer line guide means pass through a core of said spool.

34. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 31 further comprising knob means connected to said spool for turning said spool with respect to said housing.